
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

July 2005

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Governor announces private forest certification

Nearly 5 million acres of Wisconsin forestland has now been certified as sustainably managed according to third-party auditors. In addition to providing assurance to the public that the forests meet strict standards for ecological, social and economic sustainability, the certification also helps Wisconsin remain competitive in the marketplace.

Governor Doyle's June 27th announcement that two million acres of private woodlands are now certified brings the amount of certified forestland acres in Wisconsin to nearly five million acres. Three major land management programs administered by the Wisconsin DNR—Division of Forestry are now verified under third-party forest certification programs.

Wisconsin's State Forests were awarded certification last year. These 512,000 acres have dual certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Earlier this year about 2.4 million acres of Wisconsin County Forests received certification. The 27 counties participating had the option of choosing FSC, SFI or both. And now the nearly two million acres of private forest lands enrolled in the state's Managed Forest Law program are part of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) Group Certification.

This independent, third-party certification provides assurance to all who enjoy the forests that management of this important resource meets strict standards for ecological, social and economic sustainability. Together, FSC, SFI and ATFS certification programs constitute credible certification with internationally recognized performance requirements. The certification helps Wisconsin remain competitive in global markets and opens new market options as publishers, building contractors and other manufacturers increasingly demand certified raw materials. For more information about DNR's forest certification efforts, contact Paul Pingrey at 608-267-7595 or visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/certification/index.html>.

Forestry and the 2005-2007 biennial budget

The budget for the new biennium is nearing completion and includes measures to enhance certification and help control invasive species.

Wisconsin's 2005/07 biennial budget has been progressing through a wide variety of reviews and discussions during the past year. Recently the Joint Committee on Finance, the Assembly and the Senate have adjusted and forwarded the budget to the Governor.

The budget as forwarded would provide very beneficial resources for the advancement of sustainable forestry. Of particular interest is the \$450,000 per year to support on-the-ground forest management projects at the State Forests and other state-owned forested properties. Also of interest is the continued support for forest fire protection and awareness within the cooperative protection areas.

The proposed budget would also enhance forest certification activities at the State Forests and invasive species control at a variety of state-owned properties across Wisconsin.

The final mix of new resources for the forest community will not be fully known until the budget bill has been signed by the Governor.

Recent dry conditions increase wildfire danger

DNR fire officials urge extra caution to prevent wildfires due to the current dry conditions and the common use of fireworks this time of year.

Due to dry conditions, DNR fire control staff have been responding to numerous fireworks and campfire-caused wildfires throughout the state in recent weeks. Fireworks-caused wildfires are a serious threat even beyond the 4th of July week.

The DNR is encouraging everyone to be extremely cautious when using fireworks or creating campfires while dry conditions persist and has issued these recommendations: 1) Only use designated campfire sites; 2) Never leave a campfire unattended; 3) Make sure the fire is completely out when you leave; and 4) Check with local fire officials for any burning restrictions that may be in place. To learn the current fire danger rating and more, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Fire/index.htm>.

Gypsy moth thriving in our hot summer weather

The gypsy moth caterpillars are thriving in the summer heat.

Several communities in eastern Wisconsin are witnessing infestations of gypsy moth. In some southern counties, clouds of moths have been reported in backyards and parks. Further north, caterpillars are just getting ready to pupate. Aided by a warm summer, caterpillars have thrived. With the right weather conditions this winter, some areas could see nuisance level or greater infestations next spring.

Communities are urged to plan ahead for suppression spraying next spring.

Now is the time for community and county foresters to keep track of calls they receive from local residents who have had a problem with gypsy moths this summer. The deadline to apply for assistance through the WDNR gypsy moth suppression program is December 1 but there's much work to be done before then. There are surveys and paperwork to be completed and the time is near to begin that process.

If you have any questions, please contact DNR's gypsy moth program coordinator Andrea Diss at (608) 264-9247 or one of the Regional Suppression Coordinators: Bill McNee (Green Bay) in the DNR Northeast Region at (920) 662-5430; Mark Guthmiller (Madison / Milwaukee) in the DNR Southeast and South Central Regions at (608) 275-3223; or Bria Radtke (Eau Claire) in the DNR West Central Region - (715) 831-3278. For more information, visit <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/> or <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/gm/index.htm>

Wisconsin trying to keep the emerald ash borer out

"If you bring it, burn it" is the message being conveyed to campers across Wisconsin this summer in an effort to keep the emerald ash borer - a potential threat to our hardwood forests - from becoming established in Wisconsin

In an effort to educate campers and keep the emerald ash borer from entering Wisconsin, the DNR-Division of Forestry has developed a brochure that explains the importance of campers burning all the firewood they bring to campgrounds. The "don't leave any behind" message is being shared with campers across the state this summer in an attempt to keep ash borers and other pests from becoming established in Wisconsin and posing a threat to the state's hardwood forests. You can view the new brochure online at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Publications/pdf/FR314-EAB-Firewood_flyer.pdf (it's a large file and will load slowly onto your computer screen).

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